(ब) क्या दूरदर्शन ने भी उक्त कार्यक्रम के कवरेज और प्रसारण हेतु "जी." टी.वी. को किसी राशि का भुगतान किया है और यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) ऐसी सुविधायें उपलब्ध कराने का निर्णय कब और किस स्तर पर लिया गया ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री के.पी. सिंह देव) : (क) भरेसू तथा विदेशी उपभोक्ताओं को ऐसी सुविधाएँ प्रदान करने की दूरदर्शन की पद्धति के अनुसार भुगतान आधार पर दूरदर्शन द्वारा तकनीकी सुविधायें उपलब्ध करवाई गई थीं ।

(ख) जी नहीं । भारत से अपलिंक सुविधायें विदेश संचार निगम लिमिटेड द्वारा विनियमित की जाती हैं ।

(ग) दूरदर्शन ने मैसर्स "जी." टी.वी. को 5.17 लाख रुपए की राशि का बिल प्रस्तुत किया है ।

(घ) जी, नहीं ।

(ङ) इस संबंध में 13 जुलाई, 1994 को दूरदर्शन द्वारा निर्णय लिया गया था ।

AIR employees absorbed in DD

*237. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of All India Radio employees absorbed in the Doordarshan cadre;

(b) whether any willingness was taken from the employees;

(c) whether there is any difference in the promotion policies of AIR and Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) As far as Indian Broadcasting (Programme) Service is concerned, 86 officers of various grades working in AIR have since been transferred to Doordarhan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Effect of GATT Agreement on Electricity Charges

*238. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether GATT Agreement is likely to decrease or increase electricity charges;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider the modification of the Agreement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) No, Sir. GATT Agreement will not have any impact on electricity charges.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Investment by British Companies in Power Projects

*239. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Companies are holding back investment in power projects in India pending sovereign guarantees from the Indian Government; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) The investors including the British companies have

conveyed that they would need Government of India counter guarantee for State Electricity Boards' payment obligations in order to arrange finances from the international lenders.

(b) It has been agreed in principle to extend counter guarantee to the seven projects approved by the Government from the foreign investment angle. These include a project promoted by a British company as well, namely, Vishakapatnam Thermal Power Project by Ashok Leyland and National Power, U. K.

Maintenance of Telecom System in Bihar

*240. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued directions for maintenance of telephone lines and telephone service in the rural areas of Bihar during 1994-95;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government have received representation regarding Banka, Devghar and Bhagalpur divisions in Bihar in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MNISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir. The Government have issued detailed instructions to all the field units including Bihar regarding the preventive and corrective measure to be taken for the satisfactory maintenance of telephone services.

(b) Regular monitoring of the vairous performance indicators has commenced and accordingly preventive and corrective measures are being taken as and when found necessary.

(c) and (d) While no representation in this regard has been received, during the meeting between Members of Parliament and the Chief General Manager (Telecom) Bihar Circle on 7.7.94, the problem about incoming STD facility at Banka in Bihar was raised and the fault has since been rectified. However, no specific complaint has been received for Devghar and Bhagalur.

Telephone facility in villages

1883. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 5.8 lakh villages in the country only 1.5 lakh are covered by telephone facility;

(b) whether it in also a fact that to connect each of these villages through phone by the year 2000 AD a sum of Rs. 4,000 crores is required;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to htavy investment and resource crunch, Government propose to involve Multinational Corporations in this matter; and

(d) if so, what is their reaction to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. As per status on 31-7-1994, out of a total of 6,03,594 villages in the country, 1,46,136 villages have been covtred by telephone facility.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per National Telecom Policy, all the villages would be connected by phone by 1997 and requirement of a sum of Rs. 4,000 crores in anticipated.

(c) No, Sir. As per National Telecom Policy 1994, Companies registered in India will be allowed to participate in the area of basic telephone service with a view to supplement the effort of the Department of Telecommunications in providing telecommunications to the public.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply to (c) abovt.